

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 100597

P R 030850Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2059

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13346

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JS

SUBJ: LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE: STILL NO AGREEMENT

REF: TOKYO 13114

SUMMARY. DESPITE SEVERAL ROUNDS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PRO- AND ANTI-MIKI LEADERS, NO COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO LEADERSHIP STANDOFF IS IN SIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERAL ROUNDS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PRO- AND ANTI-MIKI LEADERS OVER PAST THREE DAYS HAVE PRODUCED NO SIGN OF COMPROMISE. PRO-MIKI FORMAL LDP LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO URGE ACCEPTANCE OF MEDIATION PROPOSAL CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE CABINET RESHUFFLE, EARLY EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, AND LATER DECISION ON LDP ELECTION POSTURE. ANTI-MIKI FORCES, NOW LED MAINLY BY LDP ELDER HORI, INSIST ON IMMEDIATE MIKI STEPDOWN. MEETINGS HAVE SEEN GRADUALLY ESCALATING THREATS AND DEMANDS.

2. WITH NO OBVIOUS SOLUTION IN SIGHT, BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO
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MEET AGAIN BUT HAVE FIXED NO DATE. MOST EXPECT THAT NEXT ROUND OF

MEETINGS WILL BE BETWEEN MIKI HIMSELF AND HORI SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.
(FUKUDA AND OHIRA HAVE KEPT COMPLETELY IN BACKGROUND.) ALTHOUGH
NO ONE CAN BE SURE, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE CHANCES ARE BETTER THAN
EVEN THAT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO CAMPS WILL EVENTUALLY BE REACHED.
BUT THIS WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME AND THUS POSSIBLE CABHNET SHUFFLE
AND DIET SESSION, IF THEY TAKE PLACE, ARE SOME DAYS OFF AT LEAST.
AS LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE DRAGS ON, A "REASON" ALBEIT RATHER ARTI-
FICIAL, FOR OUSTING MIKI HAS BEGUN TO TAKE SHAPE. HE IS BEING
ACCUSED OF EXERCISING "TYRANNY OF THE MINORITY," I.E., FAILING TO
HEED THE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF MAJORITY OF HIS PARTY, AND CONFUSING
DEMOCRACY AMERICAN STYLE WITH DEMOCRACY JAPANESE STYLE BY PAYING
MORE ATTENTION TO PUBLIC OPINION THAN TO PARTY.
SHOESMITH

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